(b) According to provisional figures, India's exports during April—September 1991 amounted to approximately Rs. 18711, crores.

(c) Yes, Sir. Through Eximscrips, import of all raw materials and components, barring import of sensitive items such as Petroleum and Petroleum products, Fertilizers, etc. were linked to export performance. Moreover, the Eximscrips are freely transferable and hence command a premium in excess of 20 per cent. This is a built-in incentive for exporters.

India's Trade with USSR in certain commodities

383. DR. YELMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Soviet Union is buying items like tobacco, cashewnuts and the like from India under rupee payment and re-exporting these to India's traditional western customers and thereby depriving India of hard currency; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to stop this switch trading?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Trade Agreement with USSR clearly provides that the goods exported from the Republic of India to the USSR and from the USSR to the Republic of India, are meant for use in USSR and India respectively and shall not be re-exported to any other country, unless specifically agreed upon between the competent authorities of the two sides. Government had received reports alleging that certain agricultural exports from India were being diverted by the importing organisations.

As a pre-emptive measure certain steps have been taken in the case of exports of various agricultural items. These include:

(i) Export benefits were to be recommended only after the exporter had produced a certificate issued by a recognised authority in the importing country that the goods had actually reached;

(ii) The provisions whether in terms of quantity or in value terms—laid down in the Trade Plan were not to be exceeded; and

(iii) Exports to the Rupee payment areas countries should as far as possible be in either Indian vessels or in the vessels of the importing country and use of intermediate third country vessels avoided.

If any specific instance of violation of the Agreement comes to the notice of the Government, the matter would be enquired into.

Savings schemes operational in the country

384. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the saving schemes under operation at present in the country;

(b) the total collections made during the last three years, scheme-wise and state-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in the collections under these schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) the state-wise expenditure incurred during the period on each scheme; and

(f) the steps being taken to boost collections through these schemes?